



OPCW

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TURKEY

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF TURKEY TO THE
OPCW AT THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you Mr Chairperson,

I would like to thank Director-General Ambassador Üzümcü for his comprehensive update today.

I wish to congratulate the new Chairperson of the Executive Council, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh on the assumption of his duty and to assure him of our support for his future endeavours.

I also wish to express our appreciation to the OPCW staff for their commitment and dedication. Their relentless efforts regarding the ongoing operations of the Organisation particularly in relation to Syria are of key importance.

As a States Party, meticulously upholding its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, Turkey continues its cooperation with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. In this vein, we have facilitated the work of the FFM and we will continue to support their efforts.

Both FFM and JIM efforts are being conducted in an impartial, unbiased and highly professional manner. Their work is of critical importance.

The recent report of the FFM regarding the 4 April, Khan Shaykhun chemical weapons attack confirmed that the earlier alerts were accurate and sarin was used as a chemical weapon.

We believe that this report will shed light on the attribution of responsibility to the perpetrators of this inhuman attack.

The findings clearly indicate that Turkey has been justified by its previous warnings.

We find it very important that such a crime against humanity does not take place again.

International community has to make sure that those attacks are not repeated. Unfortunately, so far measures taken by the international community in order to prevent use of chemical weapons in Syria have not resulted positively.



In this respect, longstanding issues and well known gaps and inconsistencies identified by the Technical Secretariat in the declaration by the Syrian regime needs to be eliminated and all chemical weapons stockpiles should be fully declared and destroyed.

The Khan Shaykhun attack was a crime against humanity. Unless the perpetrators of these attacks are held accountable for their crimes they will continue unabated. The Syrian regime's documented and continued non-compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention should be stopped and the United Nations Security Council must act on the findings of the recent FFM report.

Finally, Turkey wishes to be a co-signatory to the joint declaration presented by France and Germany.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and be posted on the external server and the website.

Thank you.

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